

REMARKS

Applicants again thank the Examiner for the courtesy of conducting an interview with applicants' representative on August 2, 2005. During the interview the claims directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a variant or fragment thereof, which variant or fragment includes a mutation responsible for APECED were discussed. The examiner indicated that a claim directed to a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:1 would be allowable as well as claims directed to SEQ ID NO:1 encoding the K42E and R257X mutations. The rejoinder of the protein, diagnosis and screening claims was discussed.

Claims 9-35 are in this application

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled. New claims 25-35 have been added and are based on original claims 1-8 and 23.

A new sequence listing is being filed herewith. The sequence listing includes 40 sequences. SEQ ID Nos. 37-40 are shown in Figure 5. A drawing amendment for Figure 5 is also attached.

Applicants affirm the election of the claims of group I, claims 1-4 and 23, in part, directed to SEQ ID Nos. 1 and 3.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 23 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants maintain that the full scope of claims 1-4 and 23 are enabled. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1-4 have been cancelled and claims 25-27 have been added.

All rights to file one or more divisional applications for any subject disclosed in this application and not presently claimed in preserved.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

According to the Official Action, claims 2 and 23 are rejected on the basis of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This is respectfully traversed.

In view of the cancellation of these claims, this rejection is moot and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

According to the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 4 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by GENBANK accession number X80853 (April 1996). This is respectfully traversed.

In view of the present set of claims, this is moot and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

According to the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 4 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim (et al. PNAS vol.93, pages 15299-15304, 1996). This is respectfully traversed.

According to the examiner, "Kim teaches a nucleic acid sequence which contains a PHD finger and is thus considered a variant of SEQ ID NO:1 encoding a protein having the same functional activity.


In view of the present set of claims, this is moot and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

According to the Official Action, claims 1-4 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Brennan (US patent 5,474,796). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the new set of claims, this is moot and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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